

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004 ("*Office Action*"). Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 16, 17, 19-25, 28-32, 35-39 and 42 are pending in the Application. The Examiner objects to Claims 5-9, 14, 15, 23-34, 40, and 41 and rejects Claims 1-4, 10-13, 16-25, 28-32, 35-39 and 42. Applicants amend Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 22, 29, and 36 and cancel Claims 5, 8, 14, 15, 18, 26, 27, 33, 34, 40, and 41 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner requests the pending U.S. patent application serial number at page 1. Correction has been made.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 5-9, 14-15, 26-27, 23-34, and 40-41 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that each of these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the timely and favorable consideration of these claims.

In order to hasten issuance of currently allowed subject matter, Applicants amend independent Claims 1, 10, 22, 29, and 36 to each include limitations that the Examiner has indicated as placing the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants have also added similar limitations to independent Claim 17. All other claims depend from these independent claims. Therefore, all claims are in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 10-13, 16-25, 28-32, 35-39, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,141,347 to Shaughnessy ("*Shaughnessy*"). As discussed above, Applicants have amended all of the independent claims to include

limitations that the Examiner indicated would place these claims in condition for allowance. These amendments obviate the rejection of the claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of the Application in any manner, the undersigned Attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants hereby take an Extension of Time for responding to the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004 for one month from January 4, 2005 to February 4, 2005. A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed to cover the fee.

No additional filing fees are believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any extra fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 21, 2005

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